

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-6 and 8-20 are pending in this application. Claims 3 and 7 have previously been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No claim has been amended herein.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by a newly cited art, Fuss et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,401,119 for reasons stated on pages 3-7 of the final Office Action (Paper No. 20). In support of this rejection, the Examiner recognizes that Applicants' foreign priority date predates the filing date of Fuss '119. However, since a certified English translation of the foreign priority document has not provided, the rejection stands. For purposes of expedition, Applicants enclose a certified English translation of the Japanese priority document, No. 10-2377828 filed on August 24, 1998 in order to render the rejection moot and to place all claims in condition for allowance.

Entry of the foregoing submission is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b) because the submission simply responds to the issues raised in the final rejection, no new issues are raised, no further search is required, and the foregoing submission is believed to remove the basis of the outstanding rejections and to place all claims in condition for allowance. The foregoing amendments, or explanations, could not have been made earlier because these issues had not previously been raised.

In view of the foregoing amendments, arguments and remarks, all claims are deemed to be allowable and this application is believed to be in condition to be passed to issue. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' attorney at the Washington DC area office at

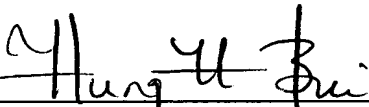
(703) 312-6600. Applicants respectfully reserve all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any or all previously claimed limitations/features which have been amended or canceled, or to any or all limitations/features not yet claimed, i.e., Applicants have no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of the disclosed invention to the public.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, No. 01-2135 (Application No. 520.37464X00), and please credit any excess fees to said deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

By


Hung H. Bui (Reg. No. 40,415)
Attorney for Applicant(s)

HHB:btd

1300 North Seventeenth Street, Suite 1800
Arlington, Virginia 22209
Tel.: (703) 312-6600
Fax: (703) 312-6666